and fifteen (1,980) village panchayets have libraries or reading rooms functioning. Six hundred and sixtyfive (200) village panchayets have availed themselves of electric power and 752 (588) village panchayets maintained sweeping establishments. Five thousand one hundred and thirtynine village panchayets were contributing to Indian Red Cross Society.

Local Development Works.

233. During the year, 402 (1,411) works under "Local Development Works" were sanctioned for execution by the village panchayets under the scheme sponsored by the Planning Commission, which included construction of roads drains, community halls and drinking water wells. The works remaining at the end of the previous year were also taken up during the year.

National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Scheme.

234. At the end of the year, another scheme to provide water supply and sanitation was introduced and the works were under progress.

(x) Amelioration of the conditions of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Ex-Criminal Tribes.

235. The Scheduled Castes, Hill Tribes and Ex-Criminals are not only educationally and socially backward, but also economically poor. It is therefore, necessary, that measures are undertaken consistently to improve their conditions to enable them gradually to come up to a stage equal to that of some of the advanced communities. Majority of them have no houses to live in and no lands of their own to maintain themselves by agriculture.

236. They were encouraged by grant of scholarships and other concessions in educational institutions. Economic rehabilitation was mainly effected by grant of arable lands for cultivation. Financial aid was also provided for the purchase of bullocks, agricultural implements, seeds and manure to the agriculturists among the Scheduled Classes.

Housing.

237. A sum of Rs. 11,00,000 was sanctioned for housing and acquisition of sites for the Depressed Classes during the year. Out of that, a sum of Rs. 10,24,513-8-0 was spent during the year. Four thousand five hundred and ninety-seven houses were completed during the year.

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Lands.

238. Land required for formation of new extensions were being acquired at Government cost and sites were distributed among the needy houseless members of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes. A sum of Rs. 1,34,520 was spent for acquiring of lands during the year for housing purposes.

Darkhast.

239. Out of 4,177 Depressed Class Darkhast cases that were received, 2,662 cases were disposed of and 22,375 acres of land were granted to the landless Scheduled Caste applicants for cultivation.

240. Sanction was accorded for a sum of Rs. 6,00,000 for construction of Depressed Class hostels during the year.

Untouchability.

241. The Scheme for the removal of untouchability aims at the socio-economic improvement of the Scheduled Castes and to gradually wean them out of the caste prejudices.

242. The Government of India sanctioned a scheme with their share at Rs. 2·91 lakhs for the year on 50:50 basis and provided an initial grant of Rs. 1,45,500 for the implementation of the scheme in several areas of the State.

243. In accordance with the sanctioned scheme, amounting to Rs. 5·81 lakhs, the following proposals were implemented during the year. They were:—

	Rs.
Harijan day	25,000
Drinking water wells	60,000
Housing	1,00,000
Cottage industries	9,000
Aid to Voluntary Agencies ...	60,000
Inter-Caste Dinners	8,000
Melas	18,000
Propaganda, Pamphlets	18,000
Miscellaneous aid to Harijans ...	1,00,000
Construction of community centres and supply of radio sets.	1,20,000
Education facilities	63,250
Total ...	5,81,250

244. Grants were provided to the private agencies engaged in Harijan Social Welfare Work, and in particular, for undertaking an intensive propaganda for the removal of untouchability.

Prosecutions.

245. The provision of the Untouchability (offences) Act, 1955 came into force from 1st June, 1955. Eleven prosecutions were launched in the several districts of the State and one case was convicted and 10 cases were under investigation.

Inter-caste Dinners.

246. Towards the eradication of untouchability and to develop social equality, inter-caste dinners were held at 95 places in the State, wherein Scheduled Caste people and Caste-Hindus participated.

247. Melas or public gathering consisting of Scheduled Castes and Caste-Hindus were convened at 270 places in the State during the year. The gatherings were exhorted to give up the anti-social practice of untouchability against a section of their own brethren and to extend to the Harijans equal social status and equal opportunities without any discrimination for their upliftment and advancement.

248. To encourage the Harijans to lead a life of greater cleanliness, soaps and towels were distributed among them and also advised in the method of keeping their houses tidy.

249. An extent of 22,375 acres of land was granted to the landless Harijans for the purpose of cultivation during the year.

250. The total expenditure incurred on the Scheme for the removal of untouchability amounted to Rs. 3,98,641.

251. The Scheme for the Welfare of Scheduled Tribes introduced in the State during 1952-53 was continued during the year.

252. Out of Rs. 20,000 allotted to the Education Department for maintaining the schools and hostels, opened exclusively for Scheduled Tribes, a sum of Rs. 17,581 was spent during the year.

253. A sum of Rs. 1,21,005 was spent during the year for the Welfare of Scheduled Tribes and development of Scheduled areas out of the sanctioned allotment of Rs. 2,62,000.

254. Sanction was accorded to the scheme for re-habilitation of Ex-Criminal Tribes in the State with an outlay of Rs. 2·0 lakhs for the year, with the stipulation that 50 per cent of the total expenditure to be met from the

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State Government and the balance 50 per cent to be met from the Centre.

255. Out of Rs. 40,000 sanctioned for giving subventions to the members of Ex-Criminal Tribes for purchasing bullocks and agricultural implements a sum of Rs. 34,193 was spent.

256. A sum of Rs. 90,000 was allotted for construction of houses by the members of the Ex-Criminal Tribes and Rs. 72,725 was spent on construction of houses during the year.

257. In all, a sum of Rs. 1,50,045 was spent under the Scheme for the Welfare of Ex-Criminal Tribes.

(xi) Bangalore City Improvement Trust Board.

Formation of Residential Extensions. Jayanagar 'A' Block.

258. In pursuance of the policy of encouraging Low Income Group Officials to own houses, 96 sites of 45'x60' dimensions were laid out. Forty-one sites were sold to the Labour Housing Corporation and the remaining allotted to the hospital staff and the public.

259. Similarly just behind Vijaya College, Block II, about 35 sites were laid out.

260. The outlay under layout works in Block I during the year was Rs. 1,59,534.

Jayanagar 'B' Block.

261. One hundred and seventy sites were formed in this Block of which half the number of sites were sold to employees of H.A.L., and the remaining to the staff of the Accountant General, Bangalore.

262. All the 80 sites formed in another plot bounded by the 10th and 11th Mains, were handed over to the Labour Housing Corporation for construction of houses to the Low Income Group Officials.

263. The total outlay under the Jayanagar 'B' Block during the year was Rs. 8,32,720.

Kumarapark West Extension.

264. The entire area including Block V was handed over to the Corporation for maintenance. The construction of service reservoir by the water supply division was almost completed.

265. The total outlay incurred till the end of the year was Rs. 6,99,228 and the total realisation was Rs. 12,00,882.